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A/45/783
6 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 61

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/120 of 15 December 1989.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. The First Committee considered item 61 jointly with items 45 to 66 and 155 at its 3rd to 39th meetings, from 15 October to 16 November 1990 (A/C.1/45/PV.3-39).

4. In connection with item 61, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 1/

(b) Note verbale dated 6 April 1990 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/213);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/45/29).

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(c) Note verbale dated 6 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/214);

(d) Note verbale dated 6 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/215);

(e) Letter dated 23 May 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/289).

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

5. At the 26th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Sri Lanka introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" (A/C.1/45/L.10), which was submitted by Yugoslavia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

6. In this connection, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/45/L.55).

7. At the 39th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.10 by a recorded vote of 107 to 4, with 17 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolutions 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, 3259 A (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3468 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/88 of 14 December 1976, 32/86 of 12 December 1977, S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 33/68 of 14 December 1978, 34/80 A and B of 11 December 1979, 35/150 of 12 December 1980, 36/90 of 9 December 1981, 37/96 of 13 December 1982, 38/185 of 20 December 1983, 39/149 of 17 December 1984, 40/153 of 16 December 1985, 41/87 of 4 December 1986, 42/43 of 30 November 1987, 43/79 of 7 December 1988, 44/120 of 15 December 1989 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that the establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, 2/

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, during its preparatory session in July 1989, 3/ commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Meeting of the

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

3/ A/AC.159/SR.357; see also Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/44/29), sect. II.C.

Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, which took place on 13 July 1979,

Recalling further paragraph 22 of the final document on international security and disarmament adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 4/

Reaffirming its conviction that concrete action for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security, as well as to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of the States of the region,

Convinced that agreement on such action should be facilitated by encouraging developments in international relations that could have beneficial effects on the region,

Also convinced that the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean area, conceived in the context of their confrontation, gives urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration,

Considering that the creation of the zone of peace requires co-operation and agreement among the States of the region to ensure conditions of peace and security within the area, as envisaged in the Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka to host the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, in 1992,

Regretting the decision of some members to withdraw from the Ad Hoc Committee, and expressing the hope that they would reconsider their position,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; 5/

2. Reaffirms full support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

3. Reiterates and emphasizes its decision to convene the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo, as a necessary step for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, adopted in 1971;

4. Renews the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions, and requests the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate;

4/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/45/29).

5. Notes with satisfaction that, in the implementation of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, including the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference, as called for in the relevant resolutions recommended by the Committee and adopted by the General Assembly by consensus, significant progress has been made in the preparatory work, in particular in the preparation of the draft agenda and the draft rules of procedure of the Conference;

6. Also notes with satisfaction that the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee has made considerable progress in identifying substantive elements at the 1989 session of the Committee 6/ and urges the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify its discussions on substantive issues and principles, with the aim of elaborating elements that might be taken into consideration during the subsequent preparation of a draft final document of the Conference;

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during 1991, the first with a duration of one week and the second with a duration of two weeks, for completion of the remaining preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo in 1992 in consultation with the host country;

8. Requests the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his consultations on the participation in the work of the Committee by States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Committee, with the aim of resolving this matter at the earliest possible date;

9. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a full report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory functions.

6/ A/AC.159/L.93, annex.

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26 November 1990

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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 62

ISRAELI NUCLEAR ARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Israeli nuclear armament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/121 of 15 December 1989.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 66. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament items agenda item 155, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting, on 15 October. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see A/C.1/45/PV.3-23). Consideration of an action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see A/C.1/45/PV.24-39).

4. In connection with item 62, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on Israeli nuclear armament (A/45/574);

(b) Letter dated 19 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of

the documents adopted by the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990 (A/45/421-S/21797).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/45/L.45 AND REV.1

5. On 31 October, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen submitted a draft resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear armament" (A/C.1/45/L.45). The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Bearing in mind its previous resolutions on Israeli nuclear armament, the latest of which is resolution 44/121 of 15 December 1989,

"Recalling its resolution 44/108 of 15 December 1989, in which, inter alia, it called for placing all nuclear facilities in the region under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

"Recalling also Security Council resolution 487 (1981) of 19 June 1981, in which, inter alia, the Council called upon Israel urgently to place all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

"Noting that only Israel has been specifically called upon by the Security Council to place its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

"Noting with grave concern Israel's persistent refusal to commit itself not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, despite repeated calls by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency,

"Taking into consideration resolution GC (XXXIV)/Res/526 of 21 September 1990 adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in which the General Conference deprecated Israel's continuous refusal to place all its nuclear facilities under the Agency's safeguards and called upon Israel to comply with Security Council resolution 487 (1981),

"Also taking into consideration the final document on international security and disarmament of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 1/ in paragraph 12 of which Israel was condemned for

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"1/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

continuing to develop its nuclear military programmes and weapons of mass destruction and for its refusal to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency in this regard,

"Deeply alarmed by the information with regard to the continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel and its testing of their delivery systems in the Mediterranean, thus threatening the peace and security of the region,

"Aware of the grave consequences that endanger international peace and security as a result of Israel's development and acquisition of nuclear weapons and Israel's collaboration with South Africa to develop nuclear weapons and their delivery systems,

"Deeply concerned that the declared Israeli policy of attacking and destroying nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes is a part of its nuclear armament policy,

"1. Reiterates its condemnation of Israel's refusal to renounce any possession of nuclear weapons;

"2. Reiterates also its condemnation of the co-operation between Israel and South Africa;

"3. Expresses its deep concern at Israel's continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons and testing of their delivery systems;

"4. Requests once more the Security Council to take urgent and effective measures to ensure that Israel complies with Council resolution 487 (1981);

"5. Demands once more that Israel place all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

"6. Calls upon all States and organizations that have not yet done so to discontinue co-operating with and giving assistance to Israel in the nuclear field;

"7. Reiterates its request to the International Atomic Energy Agency to suspend any co-operation with Israel that could contribute to its nuclear capabilities;

"8. Requests also the International Atomic Energy Agency to inform the Secretary-General of any steps Israel may take to place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to follow closely Israeli nuclear activities and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled 'Israeli nuclear armament'."

6. On 14 November, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/45/L.45/Rev.1).

7. At its 38th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.45/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 84 to 2, with 38 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its previous resolutions on Israeli nuclear armament, the latest of which is resolution 44/121 of 15 December 1989,

Recalling its resolution 44/108 of 15 December 1989, in which, inter alia, it called for placing all nuclear facilities in the region under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 487 (1981) of 19 June 1981, in which, inter alia, the Council called upon Israel urgently to place all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Noting that only Israel has been specifically called upon by the Security Council to place its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Noting with grave concern Israel's persistent refusal to commit itself not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, despite repeated calls by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Noting resolution GC (XXXIV)/Res/526 of 21 September 1990 adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Taking into consideration the final document on international security and disarmament adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 1/ in paragraph 12 of which Israel was condemned for continuing to develop its nuclear military programmes and weapons of mass destruction and for its refusal to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency in this regard,

Deeply alarmed by the information with regard to the continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel and its testing of their delivery systems in the Mediterranean, thus threatening the peace and security of the region,

Aware of the grave consequences that endanger international peace and security as a result of Israel's development and acquisition of nuclear weapons and Israel's collaboration with South Africa to develop nuclear weapons and their delivery systems,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not committed itself to refrain from attacking or threatening to attack safeguarded nuclear facilities,

1. Reiterates its condemnation of Israel's refusal to renounce any possession of nuclear weapons;

2. Reiterates also its condemnation of the co-operation between Israel and South Africa in the military field;

1/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

3. Expresses its deep concern regarding the information of Israel's continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons and testing of their delivery systems;

4. Reaffirms that Israel should promptly apply Security Council resolution 487 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, requests it to place all nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to refrain from attacking or threatening to attack nuclear facilities;

5. Calls upon all States and organizations that have not yet done so not to co-operate with or give assistance to Israel that could enhance its nuclear-weapons capability;

6. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to inform the Secretary-General of any steps Israel may take to place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to follow closely Israeli nuclear activities and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Israeli nuclear armament".

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21 November 1990

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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 63

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Education and information for disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/123 of 15 December 1989.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 66. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament items agenda item 155, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting, on 15 October. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see A/C.1/45/PV.3-23). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see (A/C.1/45/PV.24-39).

4. No documents were submitted in connection with item 63.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. No proposal was submitted for consideration by the First Committee under agenda item 63.

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Agenda item 64

CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly decision 44/430 of 15 December 1989.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely items 45 to 66. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament items agenda item 155, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting, on 15 October. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see A/C.1/45/PV.3-23). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see A/C.1/45/PV.24-39).

4. In connection with item 64, no documents were submitted.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/45/L.47

5. On 31 October 1990, Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects" (A/C.1/45/L.47), which was later also sponsored by Afghanistan and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 29th meeting, on 7 November.

6. At its 33rd meeting, on 9 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.47 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/152 of 19 December 1977, 35/153 of 12 December 1980, 36/93 of 9 December 1981, 37/79 of 9 December 1982, 38/66 of 15 December 1983, 39/56 of 12 December 1984, 40/84 of 12 December 1985, 41/50 of 3 December 1986, 42/30 of 30 November 1987 and 43/67 of 7 December 1988,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, ten years ago, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, 1/ together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), 1/ the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) 1/ and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), 1/

Reaffirming its conviction that general agreement on the prohibition or restriction of use of specific conventional weapons would significantly reduce the suffering of civilian populations and of combatants,

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1/ See The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

1. Notes with satisfaction that an increasing number of States have either signed, ratified, accepted or acceded to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which was opened for signature in New York on 10 April 1981;

2. Also notes with satisfaction that, consequent upon the fulfilment of the conditions set out in article 5 of the Convention, the Convention and the three Protocols annexed thereto entered into force on 2 December 1983;

3. Urges all States that have not yet done so to exert their best endeavours to become parties to the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto as early as possible, so as ultimately to obtain universality of adherence;

4. Stresses that, under article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to consider amendments to the Convention or any of the annexed Protocols, to consider additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing annexed Protocols or to review the scope and operation of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to consider any proposal for amendments to the Convention or to the existing Protocols and any proposals for additional protocols relating to other categories or conventional weapons not covered by the existing Protocols;

5. Requests the Secretary-General as depositary of the Convention and its three annexed Protocols to inform the General Assembly from time to time of the state of adherence to the Convention and its Protocols;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

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Agenda item 65

SPECIAL SESSIONS ON DISARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Special sessions on disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 43/77 B of 7 December 1988.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 66. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament items agenda item 155, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting, on 15 October. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see A/C.1/45/PV.3-23). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see A/C.1/45/PV.24-39).

4. No documents were submitted in connection with item 65.

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. No proposal was submitted for consideration by the First Committee under agenda item 65.

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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 66

VERIFICATION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Verification in all its aspects" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 43/81 B of 7 December 1988.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1990, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 45 to 66. At its 4th meeting, on 16 October, the First Committee decided to consider jointly with other disarmament items agenda item 155, which was allocated to the First Committee upon a decision of the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting, on 15 October. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 23rd meetings, from 15 to 30 October (see A/C.1/45/PV.3-23). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 24th and 39th meetings, from 2 to 16 November (see A/C.1/45/PV.24-39).

4. In connection with item 66, the First Committee had before it the following document: note by the Secretary-General on the study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification (A/45/372 and Corr.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/45/L.42

5. On 31 October, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Zaire submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification" (A/C.1/45/L.42), which was later also sponsored by Panama. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sweden at the 28th meeting, on 6 November.

6. At the 37th meeting, on 15 November, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement concerning the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.1/45/PV.37).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.42 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/152 O of 16 December 1985, 41/86 Q of 4 December 1986, 42/42 F of 30 November 1987 and 43/81 B of 7 December 1988,

Underlining the important role that the United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has to play in the sphere of disarmament,

Recalling that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and that, consequently, all States have the duty to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament,

Noting that the critical importance of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is universally recognized,

Stressing that the issue of verification of and compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements is a matter of concern to all nations,

Recognizing that the United Nations, in accordance with its role and responsibilities established under the Charter, can make a significant contribution in the field of verification, in particular of multilateral agreements,

Reiterating its view that:

(a) Disarmament and arms limitation agreements should provide for adequate and effective measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned in order to create the necessary confidence and to ensure that they are being observed by all parties;

(b) The form and modalities of the verification to be provided for in any specific agreement depend upon and should be determined by the purposes, scope and nature of the agreement;

(c) Agreements should provide for the participation of parties directly or through the United Nations system in the verification process;

(d) Where appropriate, a combination of several methods of verification as well as other compliance procedures should be employed,

Recalling that:

(a) In the context of international disarmament negotiations, the problem of verification should be further examined and adequate methods and procedures in this field should be considered;

(b) Every effort should be made to develop appropriate methods and procedures that are non-discriminatory and that do not interfere unduly with the internal affairs of States parties or other States or jeopardize their economic, technological and social development,

Taking note of all proposals that had been put forward in the field of verification by Member States, 1/ including those by Canada and the Netherlands, France and the countries of the Six-Nation Initiative, 2/

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. III.2, of the quoted text).

2/ See the Joint Declaration issued on 22 May 1984 by the heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/39/277-S/16587, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1984, document S/16587, annex), reaffirmed in the Delhi Declaration issued on 28 January 1985 (A/40/114-S/16921, annex; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1985, document S/16921, annex), the Mexico Declaration issued on 7 August 1986 (A/41/518-S/18277, annex I), and the Stockholm Declaration issued on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478, annex).

Affirming its support for the 16 principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission, 3/

Noting that recent developments in international relations have underscored the importance of effective verification of existing and future arms limitation and disarmament agreements,

Recalling that by resolution 43/81 B the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to undertake, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, an in-depth study of the role of the United Nations in the field of verification that would:

(a) Identify and review existing activities of the United Nations in the field of verification of arms limitation and disarmament;

(b) Assess the need for improvements in existing activities as well as explore and identify possible additional activities, taking into account organizational, technical, operational, legal and financial aspects;

(c) Provide specific recommendations for future action by the United Nations in this context;

and to submit a comprehensive report on this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General; 4/

2. Notes that the report was approved by the group of qualified governmental experts to undertake a study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification;

3. Commends the report to the attention of Member States;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to give the report the widest possible circulation;

5. Also requests that the Secretary-General take appropriate action within available resources on the recommendations of the group;

6. Encourages Member States to give active consideration to the recommendations contained in the concluding chapter and to assist the Secretary-General in their implementation where appropriate;

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text).

4/ A/45/372 and Corr.1.

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on actions taken by Member States and by the United Nations Secretariat to implement these recommendations;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 67

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Question of Antarctica" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. The First Committee considered the item at its 40th to 43rd and 47th meetings, from 19 to 21 and on 28 November 1990 (see A/C.1/45/PV.40-43 and 47).

4. In connection with item 67, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica (A/45/458);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica (A/45/459);

(c) Letter dated 19 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the documents adopted by the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990 (A/45/421-S/21797).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.63 and Rev.1 and 2

5. On 19 November 1990, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Comoros, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/45/L.63), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

"Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984, 40/156 A and B of 16 December 1985, 41/88 A and B of 4 December 1986, 42/46 A and B of 30 November 1987, 43/83 A and B of 7 December 1988 and 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989,

"Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989 1/ the second meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic held at Abuja from 25 to 29 June 1990, 2/ and the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990, 3/

"Taking into account the debates on this item held since its thirty-eighth session,

"Reaffirming the principle that the international community is entitled to information covering all aspects of Antarctica and that the United Nations should be made the repository for all such information in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/88 A, 42/46 B, 43/83 A and 44/124 B,

"Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, inter alia, in terms of international peace and security, environment, its effects on global climatic conditions, economy and scientific research,

"Conscious also of the interrelationship between Antarctica and the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth system,

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"1/ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

"2/ See A/45/474, annex.

"3/ See A/45/421-S/21797.

"Welcoming the increasing recognition of the significant impact that Antarctica exerts on the global environment and ecosystems and the need for a comprehensive agreement on the protection and conservation of the Antarctica environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

"Sharing the concern over the environmental degradation of Antarctica and its impact on global environment expressed at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990,

"Welcoming the increasing support for the establishment of Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park to ensure the protection and conservation of its environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems for the benefit of all mankind,

"Welcoming also the increasing support within the international community for the banning of prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica,

"Welcoming further the initiative taken by some Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in promoting Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park and the banning of prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica,

"Welcoming the ongoing trend in acknowledging the need for internationally co-ordinated scientific research stations in Antarctica in order to minimize unnecessary duplication and logistical support facilities,

"Welcoming also the increasing awareness of and interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

"Affirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

"Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international co-operation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

"Convinced of the need to prevent or minimize any negative impact of human activity resulting from the large number of scientific stations and expeditions in Antarctica on the environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

"Taking into account all aspects pertaining to all areas covered by the Antarctic Treaty, 4/

"Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General 5/ on the question of Antarctica,

"1. Expresses its regret that despite the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly the Secretary-General or his representative has not been invited to the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, including the special session of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting to be held at Santiago from 19 November to 7 December 1990, and urges once again the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to invite the Secretary-General or his representative to their future meetings;

"2. Calls upon the Treaty Parties to deposit information and documents covering all aspects of Antarctica with the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

"3. Expresses the conviction that any move to draw up a comprehensive environmental convention on the conservation and protection of Antarctica and its dependent and associated ecosystems as well as establishing a nature reserve or world park must be negotiated with the full participation of the international community, and in this regard stresses that this should be pursued within the context of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"4. Urges all members of the international community to support all efforts to ban prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica and to ensure that all activities should be exclusively used for the purpose of peaceful scientific investigation and that all such activities should ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in Antarctica and the protection of its environment and should be for the benefit of all mankind;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive study with the help of relevant United Nations agencies such as the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme on the establishment of a United Nations-sponsored station in Antarctica with a view to promoting co-ordinated international co-operation in scientific research for the benefit of mankind, particularly the importance of Antarctica to the global environment and ecosystems, as well as to act as an early-warning system on climate change and accidents, and submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

"5/ A/45/548 and 549.

"6. Urges all States Members of the United Nations to co-operate with the Secretary-General and to continue consultations on all aspects relating to Antarctica;

"7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluation of all aspects of Antarctica to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled 'Question of Antarctica'."

6. At the 43rd meeting, on 21 November, Malaysia, on behalf of the co-sponsors, who were joined later by Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Philippines, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania, introduced and orally revised the draft resolution (A/C.1/45/L.63/Rev.1) as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 4 was deleted and subsequent paragraphs renumbered;

(b) In operative paragraph 6 "programmes and specialized" was added after "of relevant United Nations", and "using available data and resources" was added after "United Nations Environment Programme";

(c) In operative paragraph 8, "using available data and resources" was added after "to submit a report".

The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

"Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984, 40/156 A and B of 16 December 1985, 41/88 A and B of 4 December 1986, 42/46 A and B of 30 November 1987, 43/83 A and B of 7 December 1988 and 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989,

"Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 1/ the second meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic, held at Abuja from 25 to 29 June 1990, 2/ and the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990, 3/

"1/ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

"2/ See A/45/474, annex.

"3/ See A/45/421-S/21797.

"Taking into account the debates on this item held since its thirty-eighth session,

"Reaffirming the principle that the international community is entitled to information covering all aspects of Antarctica and that the United Nations should be made the repository for all such information in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/88 A, 42/46 B, 43/83 A and 44/124 B,

"Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, inter alia, in terms of international peace and security, environment, its effects on global climatic conditions, economy and scientific research,

"Conscious also of the interrelationship between Antarctica and the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth system,

"Welcoming the increasing recognition of the significant impact that Antarctica exerts on the global environment and ecosystems and the need for a comprehensive agreement on the protection and conservation of the Antarctica environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

"Sharing the concern over the environmental degradation of Antarctica and its impact on global environment expressed at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990,

"Welcoming the increasing support for the establishment of Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park to ensure the protection and conservation of its environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems for the benefit of all mankind,

"Welcoming also the increasing support within the international community for the banning of prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica,

"Welcoming the initiative taken by some Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in promoting Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park and the banning of prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica,

"Welcoming the ongoing trend in acknowledging the need for internationally co-ordinated scientific research stations in Antarctica in order to minimize unnecessary duplication and logistical support facilities,

"Welcoming the increasing awareness of and interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

"Affirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

"Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international co-operation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

"Convinced of the need to prevent or minimize any negative impact of human activity resulting from the large number of scientific stations and expeditions in Antarctica on the environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

"Taking into account all aspects pertaining to all areas covered by the Antarctic Treaty, 4/

"Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General 5/ on the question of Antarctica,

"1. Expresses its regret that despite the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or his representative has not been invited to the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, including the special session of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting at Santiago from 19 November to 7 December 1990, and urges once again the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to invite the Secretary-General or his representative to their future meetings;

"2. Calls upon the Treaty Parties to deposit information and documents covering all aspects of Antarctica with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"3. Expresses the conviction that any move to draw up a comprehensive environmental convention on the conservation and protection of Antarctica and its dependent and associated ecosystems as well as establishing a nature reserve or world park must be negotiated with the full participation of the international community, and in this regard stresses that this should be pursued within the context of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"4. Urges all members of the international community to support all efforts to ban prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica and to ensure that all activities should be exclusively used for the purpose of peaceful scientific investigation and that all such activities should ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in Antarctica and the protection of its environment and should be for the benefit of all mankind;

"4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

"5/ A/45/548 and A/45/549.

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive study with the help of relevant United Nations programmes and specialized agencies such as the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, using available data and resources, on the establishment of a United Nations-sponsored station in Antarctica with a view to promoting co-ordinated international co-operation in scientific research for the benefit of mankind, particularly the importance of Antarctica to the global environment and ecosystems, as well as to act as an early-warning system on climate change and accidents, and submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"6. Urges all States Members of the United Nations to co-operate with the Secretary-General and to continue consultations on all aspects relating to Antarctica;

"7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, using available data and resources, on the state of the environment in Antarctica and its impact on the global system to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled 'Question of Antarctica'."

7. At the 47th meeting, on 28 November, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement concerning the programme budget implications of the resolution (see A/C.1/45/PV.47).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.63/Rev.2 by a roll-call vote of 75 to none, with 8 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows: 1/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,

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1/ The following 43 States announced that they were not participating in the vote: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Fiji, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Portugal, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Venezuela.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.64 and Rev.1

9. On 19 November 1990, Tunisia, on behalf of the States members of the Group of African States, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Question of Antarctica" (A/C.1/45/L.64), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 43/83 B of 7 December 1988 and 44/124 of 15 December 1989,

"Having considered the item entitled 'Question of Antarctica',

"Noting with regret that the racist apartheid régime of South Africa, which has been suspended from participation in the General Assembly of the United Nations, has continued to participate in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties,

"Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its fiftieth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 22 July 1989, 1/

"Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 2/

"Recalling further that the Antarctic Treaty 3/ is, by its terms, intended to further the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

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"1/ See A/44/603, annex I.

"2/ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

"3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

"Noting that the policy of apartheid practised by the racist minority régime of South Africa, which has been universally condemned, constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security,

"1. Views with concern the continuing participation of the apartheid régime of South Africa in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties;

"2. Appeals once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the racist apartheid régime of South Africa from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties at the earliest possible date;

"3. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 4/ and expresses deep concern that the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties have consistently failed to respond to the repeated request by the General Assembly, through the Co-ordinator State, to submit information on the measures taken by the said parties in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report in this regard to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, taking into account the concerns expressed in paragraph 3 of the present resolution;

"5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled 'Question of Antarctica'."

"4/ A/45/458."

10. At the 47th meeting, on 28 November, the representative of Tunisia introduced draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.64/Rev.1 and orally revised it by replacing operative paragraph 3, which read:

3. Invites the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to inform the Secretary-General of the measures taken regarding the provisions of the present resolution;

by the following text:

3. Appeals once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the racist apartheid régime from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties at the earliest possible date, and invites them to inform the Secretary-General of the measures taken regarding the provisions of the present resolution.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.64/Rev.1, as orally revised, by a roll-call vote of 84 to none, with 6 abstentions (see para. 12, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mauritius, Portugal, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

2/ The following 35 States announced that they were not participating in the vote: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

12. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Question of Antarctica

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984, 40/156 A and B of 16 December 1985, 41/88 A and B of 4 December 1986, 42/46 A and B of 30 November 1987, 43/83 A and B of 7 December 1988 and 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 3/ the second meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic, held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June 1990, 4/ and the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990, 5/

Taking into account the debates on this item held since its thirty-eighth session,

Reaffirming the principle that the international community is entitled to information covering all aspects of Antarctica and that the United Nations should be made the repository for all such information in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/88 A, 42/46 B, 43/83 A and 44/124 B,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, inter alia, in terms of international peace and security, environment, its effects on global climatic conditions, economy and scientific research,

Conscious also of the interrelationship between Antarctica and the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth system,

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3/ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

4/ See A/45/474, annex.

5/ See A/45/421-S/21797.

Welcoming the increasing recognition of the significant impact that Antarctica exerts on the global environment and ecosystems and the need for a comprehensive agreement on the protection and conservation of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

Sharing the concern over the environmental degradation of Antarctica and its impact on global environment expressed at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990,

Welcoming the increasing support for the establishment of Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park to ensure the protection and conservation of its environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems for the benefit of all mankind,

Welcoming also the increasing support within the international community for the banning of prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica,

Welcoming the initiative taken by some Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in promoting Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park and the banning of prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica,

Welcoming the ongoing trend in acknowledging the need for internationally co-ordinated scientific research stations in Antarctica in order to minimize unnecessary duplication and logistical support facilities,

Welcoming the increasing awareness of and interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Affirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international co-operation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Convinced of the need to prevent or minimize any negative impact of human activity resulting from the large number of scientific stations and expeditions in Antarctica on the environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

Taking into account all aspects pertaining to all areas covered by the Antarctic Treaty, 6/

6/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica, 7/

1. Expresses its regret that, despite the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or his representative has not been invited to the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, including the special session of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting at Santiago from 19 November to 7 December 1990, and urges once again the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to invite the Secretary-General or his representative to their future meetings;

2. Calls upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to deposit information and documents covering all aspects of Antarctica with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

3. Expresses the conviction that any move to draw up a comprehensive environmental convention on the conservation and protection of Antarctica and its dependent and associated ecosystems as well as establishing a nature reserve or world park must be negotiated with the full participation of the international community, and in this regard stresses that this should be pursued within the context of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

4. Urges all members of the international community to support all efforts to ban prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica and to ensure that all activities are used exclusively for the purpose of peaceful scientific investigation and that all such activities ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in Antarctica and the protection of its environment and are for the benefit of all mankind;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive study with the help of relevant United Nations programmes and specialized agencies such as the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, using available data and resources, on the establishment of a United Nations-sponsored station in Antarctica with a view to promoting co-ordinated international co-operation in scientific research for the benefit of mankind, particularly the importance of Antarctica to the global environment and ecosystems, as well as to act as an early-warning system on climate change and accidents, and submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

6. Urges all States Members of the United Nations to co-operate with the Secretary-General and to continue consultations on all aspects relating to Antarctica;

7/ A/45/548 and A/45/549.

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, using available data and resources, on the state of the environment in Antarctica and its impact on the global system to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/83 B of 7 December 1988 and 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Noting with regret that the racist apartheid régime of South Africa, which has been suspended from participation in the General Assembly of the United Nations, has continued to participate in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its fiftieth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 22 July 1989, 8/

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 9/

Recalling further that the Antarctic Treaty 10/ is, by its terms, intended to further the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the policy of apartheid practised by the racist minority régime of South Africa, which has been universally condemned, constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 11/ and expresses deep concern that no concrete measures have been taken in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 44/124 A;

8/ See A/44/603, annex I.

9/ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

10/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

11/ A/45/458.

2. Views with concern the continuing participation of the apartheid régime of South Africa in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties;

3. Appeals once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the racist apartheid régime from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties at the earliest possible date, and invites them to inform the Secretary-General of the measures taken regarding the provisions of the present resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report in this regard to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, taking into account the concern expressed in paragraph 1 of the present resolution;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

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Agenda item 68

STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Latévi Modem LAWSON-BETUM (Togo)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 44/125 of 15 December 1989.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. The First Committee considered the item jointly with items 69, 70 and 12 at its 44th to 49th meetings, on 26 to 29 November 1990 (see A/C.1/45/PV.44-49).

4. In connection with item 68, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region (A/45/713);

(b) Letter dated 19 January 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting excerpts from a speech delivered on 15 January 1990 by the First Secretary of the Party of Labour of Albania and the President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of Albania (A/45/88);

(c) Letter dated 26 January 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final declaration of the first regular session of the Presidential Council of the Arab Maghreb Union, held at Tunis from 21 to 23 January 1990 (A/45/110);

(d) Letter dated 12 March 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a statement issued by the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation (A/45/163-S/21185);

(e) Letter dated 30 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the resolution adopted by the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference held at Nicosia from 2 to 7 April 1990 (A/45/259-S/21279);

(f) Letter dated 29 June 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the resolutions adopted by the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference held at Nicosia from 2 to 7 April 1990 (A/45/329);

(g) Letter dated 23 July 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Declaration on the Prospects of Global Dialogue on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean and the final communiqué adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Mediterranean Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers on 25 and 26 June 1990 (A/45/357);

(h) Letter dated 1 November 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the joint communiqué of the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States, held at Tirana on 24 and 25 October 1990 (A/45/701).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/45/L.65

5. On 27 November 1990, Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Tunisia and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region" (A/C.1/45/L.65), which was later also sponsored by Morocco.

6. At the 49th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Malta introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the co-sponsors.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including its resolution 44/125 of 15 December 1989,

Recognizing the importance of intensifying and promoting peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region and of strengthening further the economic, commercial and cultural links in the region,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region,

Expressing concern at the persistent tension and continuing military operations and activities in parts of the Mediterranean region and the consequent threat to peace and security,

Welcoming the favourable developments in international political relations and expressing the hope that the enhancement of security and co-operation, particularly in Europe, will also have a positive impact on the Mediterranean region,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to conform in their actions to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 1/

Recognizing the efforts realized so far and the determination expressed by the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations aimed at promoting peace, security and co-operation in the region,

Recognizing also the desire of the Mediterranean countries that the needs of their region be taken into account in ongoing and future negotiations relating to international security and disarmament, particularly on the enhancement of security and co-operation in Europe,

Recognizing further the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and the need to ensure that all actions are aimed towards the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in the region,

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1/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Noting with satisfaction the greater awareness in Europe of the need for interdependent action in the Mediterranean with the aim of contributing to reducing tension, improving good-neighbourly relations and fostering political, cultural and economic progress in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 2/

1. Reaffirms that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. Welcomes the determination expressed by Mediterranean countries to intensify their efforts to promote dialogue and co-operation in the region in order to achieve through peaceful settlement just and lasting solutions to those crises which still threaten regional peace and stability, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and the right of peoples under colonial or foreign domination to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Takes note of the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Mediterranean Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers in June 1990, 3/ and of the expressed conviction that an open and sustained dialogue as well as intensive co-operation would increase mutual understanding and trust, thus promoting stability, security and peace in the region;

4. Expresses satisfaction at the progress achieved within the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has increased substantially the possibilities of implementing the commitment made by the States participating in the Conference to intensify political dialogue and co-operation with all Mediterranean countries in order to strengthen security and work towards the relaxation of tensions, the settlement of crises and conflicts as well as towards the development of co-operation in the Mediterranean;

5. Takes note of the report of the Meeting on the Mediterranean of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Palma de Mallorca, which, inter alia, reaffirmed the commitment of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to, and stressed the continuing relevance of, the provisions of the Conference concerning security and co-operation in the Mediterranean;

6. Notes the widespread support among Mediterranean countries for the proposal to convene a Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean and their willingness to open regional consultations with a view to creating the appropriate conditions for the initiation of such a process;

2/ A/45/713.

3/ See A/45/356.

7. Notes also the progress already achieved in other initiatives promoting security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, in particular, the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Nicosia in April 1990, the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Western Mediterranean, held at Rome in October 1990, the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States, held at Tirana in October 1990, and the meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union;

8. Emphasizes the need for just and peaceful settlement of persistent problems in the region and the need for respecting and safeguarding the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries and peoples of the Mediterranean, and for full adherence to the principles of non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

9. Urges all States to co-operate with the Mediterranean States in the intensification of existing forms of co-operation in various fields, with a view to reducing tension, promoting peace and security and ensuring stability, prosperity and support for democratic processes, economic reforms and development in the countries of the region in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

10. Encourages efforts to eliminate the economic and social disparities in levels of development and to promote a durable growth of the Mediterranean States, particularly the developing States of the region, which are displaying sustained efforts to adjust and which are making sacrifices in a still unfavourable environment;

11. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to pay close attention to the question of peace, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region and, if requested to do so, to render advice and assistance to Mediterranean countries in their concerted efforts in promoting peace, security and co-operation in the region;

12. Invites all Member States, as well as the relevant regional organizations and subregional groupings, to communicate to the Secretary-General concrete ideas and suggestions concerning this issue, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region".